



The success of your club's newsletter is dependent in part on what is submitted for publication. Please, if you have something to share send it to the editor. We are always looking for positive input, so why don't you drop me a line today!

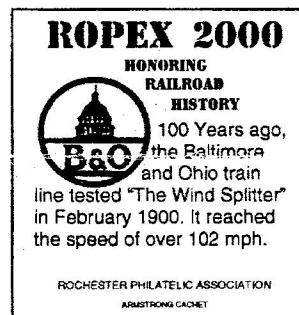
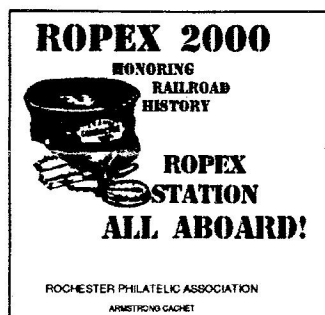


Chapter Member 207-19273 American Philatelic Society

Chapter # 69 American First Day Cover Society

Chapter # 84 American Topical Association

[Http://rpa.homepage.com/index.html](http://rpa.homepage.com/index.html)
Check out the RPA Home Page



Diplomat Banquet Center
One Diplomat Way
I-390 at Lyell Ave.

MARCH 17-19, 2000

FRI. 10:00-6:00PM, SAT. 10:00 TO 5:00PM, SUN. 10:00 TO 4:00PM

NATIONAL STAMP SHOW
WORLD SERIES OF PHILATELY
A CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS SHOW

NATIONAL TOPICAL STAMP SHOW

CONGRATULATIONS TOM!

We now have another Nationally accredited judge in the Rochester Philatelic Society. Last week Tom Fortunato was informed by the Chairman of the APS Accreditation Committee that his application had been approved unanimously. He'll get his certificate from APS Headquarters in the very near future.



Tom began this procedure over 2 years ago when he served his first National Show apprenticeship in Virginia. However, he was not a newcomer to judging, having had extensive experience as a local or regional judge. In fact he has been an accredited NYS Central Federation judge for several years.

The requirements for an APS National Judge accreditation are not complicated. One must obtain a Vermeil or Gold for an exhibit at a National Show (a World Series of Philately Show like ROPEX), attend at least 2 different judging seminars, and serve a minimum of 4 National Show apprenticeships satisfactorily.

We could do with more National judges in this area - any volunteers?

Ann Trigg
School of Pharmacy
State University of New York at Buffalo

Welcome New Members

Kathy Armstrong of Gates, NY. Kathy collects girafes, not just on stamps. Husband Kelly is a long time RPA member.

Kenneth W. Smith of Fairport, NY collects world-wide, Europe mostly.

The American Topical Association's (ATA) annual convention will be in Buffalo, June 16-18, 2000. Known as the National Topical Stamp Show (NTSS), it will be in the Buffalo Convention Center. 9-5 on Friday and Saturday and 10-2 on Sunday.

The Buffalo Convention Center is at One Convention Center Plaza; it straddles Pearl, Court and Franklin Streets. The entrance is on Franklin; loading dock is on Pearl. The Hyatt Regency (convention hotel) is across Pearl Street; connected to the Convention Center by a walkway. A parking ramp is on Franklin and Huron. The mail address is Buffalo NY 14202. 716-855-5555. Fax 716-855-3158.

The Philatelic Music Circle (PMC) meeting will be on Saturday, June 17, 2000; at 1 PM at the NTSS. There will be a 'GIVE AND TAKE' session at the PMC meeting. There will be a lively exchange of ideas, conversation and philatelic items. It will be open to all NTSS show attendees.

The music on stamps exhibit of Marie Tokasz will be on view in the meeting room. This collection was inspired by the music on stamps collection of Edith Crane, founder of the Crane School of Music at Potsdam, New York. Crane School of Music, now part of the State University of New York at Potsdam is a renowned school for the training of music teachers. Mrs. Tokasz is an alumna of Potsdam and teaches orchestra in the Lancaster, New York school system.

That weekend is Father's Day weekend and many musical events will be taking place throughout the area.

All are invited to give their stories and show their treasures and take away some ideas and philatelic items. Tom Fortunato promises to answer any questions about his music and stamps that he uses on the Web.

Other groups holding meetings at the convention are:

Saturday, June 17, 2000--
12 noon Americana Unit
1 p.m. Scouts on Stamps Society

Submitted by Marge Schleining



Collecting Ideas

Guest Columnist George M. Hill, 3rd, formerly a
PNC

(Part five - - Column Name Change and Record
Keeping Methods Discussed)

Let's let the PNC's designation return to the collectors who really collect Plate Number Coils and who enjoy a very active hobby. We, who are admitted former ***Perpetual Novice Collectors**, are proud of doing more than accumulating philatelic material and need more "Collecting Ideas." The column name will be changed to that designation...**Collecting Ideas** ... and all members are urged to contribute to this on-going "Help" column. We all profess to want to continue and to expand the philatelic hobby we have elected to follow. Being a novice collector the amount of interesting material from just a novice will soon be gone and the column will disappear. Your help is needed. Please send your input to Joe Doles, our editor or to me. He and I would like to work with you to get your thoughts into our newsletter.

As promised in the lead of this story, it is time to consider alternate methods that will stand the test of time regarding our collection record keeping. We need to avoid a cumbersome method but one that protects the security of the collection while reducing the amount of work required to maintain our collection on a current and changing basis.

A hand, writing instrument and paper come to mind. For those without a computer, it may be the only solution. The negative factor to this method is that there is no "back-space" on a pencil. Without time consuming rewriting, records soon become obsolete. Perhaps you have licked this problem. Space in this column will be made available to describe your method.

A more modern method is to use a computer. Many others have addressed our record keeping problem and computer programs are available to assist. Some permit a degree of customizing to fit

individual requirements. Several generic database programs are available which can be used to make a custom program that represents your collection. It takes time to develop a computerized but the rewards provide the incentive to spend the time.

Those hand-kept records from notations in catalogs could be the basis for the customized program. By coding entries, what you have and what you are seeking, can be made into lists to take on buying expeditions. Values from catalogs can be updated and tabulations of total collection value can easily be maintained on a per-stamp change. When it comes time to sell your collection, you can easily ascertain what you invested and what the collections' book value has become. If not for yourself, it could provide an excellent estate valuation tool or one to determine a donation value should that be the desired method of relinquishing your philatelic material you have held in "trust."

Next month, the elements of a computer database will be discussed. If anyone is using a purchased program, please call or write Joe or me with the name, availability, and some details on how it has helped you with your record keeping.

Buffalo Stamp Club

Annual Show

Free Parking

March 31, April 1-2, 2000

Free Admission

VFW Leonard Post

2450 Walden Ave., Cheektowage, NY

Bourse & Exhibition:

Friday, 1 pm to 8 pm

Saturday 10 am to 5 pm

Sunday 10 am to 3 pm

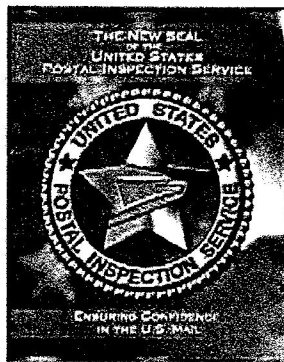
The same great show, as always!

No longer in February!

Two exciting club-sponsored

Auctions

Friday at 6 pm and Saturday at 2 pm



1. What are Postal Inspectors?

Postal Inspectors are federal law enforcement agents responsible for enforcing more than 200 federal statutes that deal with the United States Postal Service and the U.S. Mail.

2. What are the responsibilities of the Postal Inspection Service?

The Postal Inspection Service is responsible for protecting postal employees and the mails; enforcing postal laws; plant and personnel security; conducting various internal audits within the Postal Service; and conducting criminal investigations and presenting evidence to U.S. Attorneys and other prosecutors on these investigations.

3. What authority do Postal Inspectors have under the law?

As sworn federal law enforcement agents, Postal Inspectors have the power to serve warrants and subpoenas issued under the authority of the United States; make arrests without warrant for postal-related offenses committed in their presence; make arrests without warrants for postal-related felonies cognizable under the laws of the United States, if they have reasonable grounds to believe that the person arrested has committed or is committing such a felony; carry firearms, and make seizures of property as provided by law.

4. Can Postal Inspectors open mail if they feel it may contain something illegal?

First-Class letters and parcels are protected against search and seizure under the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution, and, as such, cannot be opened without a search warrant. If there is probable cause to believe the contents of a First-Class letter or parcel violate federal law, Postal Inspectors can obtain a search warrant to open the mailpiece. Other classes of mail do not contain private correspondence, and therefore may be opened without a warrant.

5. Why do Postal Inspectors frequently conduct joint investigations with other agencies?

Overlapping jurisdiction often requires collaboration with other federal, state and local authorities. Postal Inspectors have developed close working relationships with other agencies that facilitate such cooperation.

6. Do Postal Inspectors get involved in investigations unrelated to mail or the Postal Service?

On rare occasions Postal Inspectors are asked by the U.S. Department of Justice or a U.S. Attorney to assist in an investigation that does not involve the use of the mails. But typically investigations will relate to the Postal Service or the U.S. Mail in some way. For example, securities or insurance fraud may involve sending false statements or claims through the mail. Child molesters may be producing child pornography and distributing it via the U.S. Mail. These types of crimes violate statutes that are within the jurisdiction of the Postal Inspection Service.

7. Who is in charge of the Postal Inspection Service?

The Chief Postal Inspector heads the Postal Inspection Service, acts as security officer and defense coordinator for the Postal Service, and maintains liaison with other investigative and law enforcement agencies of the Government.

8. Who appoints the Chief Postal Inspector?

The Postmaster General of the United States.

9. Who does the Chief Postal Inspector report to?

The Chief Postal Inspector reports to the Postmaster General of the United States.

Electronic Postage

By Ada M. Prill

The ad said \$20 free postage. That got my attention fast.

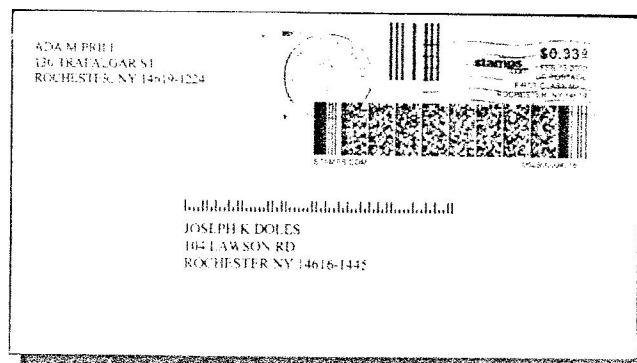
Not ordinary postage - electronic, computer generated postage, printed on my very own HP 722C. I was sufficiently intrigued to go to the website mentioned in the ad: <http://www.stamps.com>. I requested a free CD with all the programs I would need - I could have downloaded them from the Internet but decided I'd rather have the software on CD.

Within a week I had my software. I loaded the software and followed the instructions to log onto the Internet. Then I filled out on-line registration forms - fairly complicated - for Stamps.com and for the U.S. Postal Service. Seems I had to have a license to use a postal meter before I could print postage. Ah, what the heck, I filled out my name and address, ice cream flavor preference, favorite brand of shampoo (yes, I'm making some of this up!) - all the things necessary for the USPS to trust me to print my own "stamps." There was a wait of a few hours while the FBI interviewed my college roommates, and then it was time to use my new toy.

First of all, I had to sign on to the Internet again. Then I clicked on my newest icon and told the machine I was ready to send some mail.

It's a fairly user-friendly system. I typed in the address for my first letter, and the program changed everything that needed to be changed for the address to be in USPS-preferred format "Box," for example, became "PO BOX." It added the four digit extension to the ZIP Code for me in about one second! It asked me whether I was printing an envelope or a label for a package, what size, the weight of my mailing, and whether I wanted First Class, Priority, or Express Mail. It told me how much of my \$20 was going to be used to print the first cover.

Then it kindly asked me if I'd like a sample. Yes, thank you. Hmmm, good thing I did - the printer grabbed both my envelope and a sheet of paper from the paper tray, and part of the printing went on each. Emptied the paper tray, stuck in another envelope, tried again. Beautiful! Printed the actual postage. Neato! The friendly machine did the math in an



instant and told me how much of my \$20 was left. The indicia on the envelope tells the USPS where the letter is going, when it was printed and by whom, and the color of my socks on the day I did the printing. I can mail the things I print anywhere in my own ZIP Code, but the mail has to go out within a day of the date printed on the envelope. It is possible to print postdated envelopes for use at a specified future date.

The only thing that didn't work well was attempting to import my address book from WordPerfect. "Yeah, we can do that," said the machine, but it garbled the addresses. Ah, well, for \$20 free postage I can do some retyping.

If I wanted to keep this nifty little toy after the first \$20 (or one month), I'd have to pay a surcharge of 10% of all the postage I print, with a minimum monthly charge of \$1.99 and a maximum monthly charge of \$19.99. Am I going to? No, I like stamps and I don't like paying an extra 3.3 cents for every letter I send. But it IS tempting - it's fun! If you're wired to the Internet, give it a try. I don't know how long it will be before people like me convince them to stop offering the \$20 freebie, but for the moment it's a great deal.

PROGRAMS

Mar. 9th " Stamp Technology Basics"
slideshow

March 17-19 ROPEX 2000 Show

Mar. 23rd "Stamps of the Steamship Companies: West Indies, Central & South America" slide show

Presidential Papers

You never know when you will bump into philately- literally

Case in point. On my second week of assignment to Long Island on business a terrible ice storm was hitting the Rochester area, so I decided to leave early for my 6:30 AM flight to Islip via a stopover in Albany. Having made the airport with plenty of time to spare, I walked around a bit.

The Greater Rochester International Airport isn't much in the scheme of major hubs, and can easily be walked through in a few minutes time. A new business center caught my attention in the central lobby, complete with desks and all the paraphernalia for the road warrior of today. Just beyond was a 20 foot square display featuring rep panels. Getting closer, I noticed banner signs reading, "The Frederick Wiedman Collection of Presidential Papers." The panel I spied first was for our 16th president, Abraham Lincoln, so I decided to find the beginning and go in order.

The collection was formed by the late Frederick Wiedman, formerly of 1400 East Avenue, Apartment 515, as one item was addressed directly to him- but more on that later. The bulk of items were not from each respective presidential term of office, but from correspondences either before or after their stint. Examples from every president through Gerald Ford were shown.

First up was of course George Washington (1789-1797). His signature was found on a military discharge order for one of his troops from 1783. The large document, about 12 inches by 18 inches, was in amazingly good condition, with little ink fading.

Now on to the philately! Martin Van Buren (8th president, 1837-1841) was represented by an 1821 folded letter mailed from Albany to a colleague in New York City. The 12 1/2 cent manuscript rate was clearly marked, as were an Albany Nov 9 and New York Nov 13 receiving mark.

Chester Arthur (21st president, 1881-1885), had absolutely beautiful handwriting. His missive was one of the few present written while in office. His letter of May 23, 1882 was written on Executive Mansion stationery, enclosed in an equally nice envelope with corner card. It bore a Washington dated postmark and an unusual double ringed "6" rate marking. The letter itself was written to someone who wrote him about actions of some general.

Grover Cleveland (22nd president, 1885-1889) was next and also had a philatelic item displayed. It was a letter dated April 14, 1900 and sent to the then mayor of Buffalo, C. Bryant. The Princeton, NJ duplex postmark canceled the typical type III 2 cent Washington definitive of the time. The cover shown was mis-identified as being one from May 29, 1882.

William McKinley (25th president, 1897-1901) was shown by a May 11, 1887 letter and envelope used

during his term as a representative for his native state of Ohio. It was written on official House of Representatives stationery with a beautiful insignia in the upper left corner. The letter dealt with a matter brought up by his constituent. The two cent stamp on a plain envelope was canceled in Clinton, Ohio with a four-quadrant cork cancel.

William Howard Taft (27th president, 1909-1913) had one of the most interesting pieces on display, leaving those in the know scratching our heads! The envelope bore a US Circuit Court of Appeals/Judges Chambers/Cincinnati, Ohio corner card with matching stationery, and was dated September 2, 1899. It was addressed to a judge in Cincinnati, George Leonard, and was about two checks the then ex-president had passed. Strangely, the envelope was postmarked Point Au Pic, Quebec in the center of the envelope, but the original stamp was missing from the upper right corner. Was this mailed from Quebec? Did the envelope go astray, winding up routing through Canada in error? Maybe a backstamp would help solve the mystery.

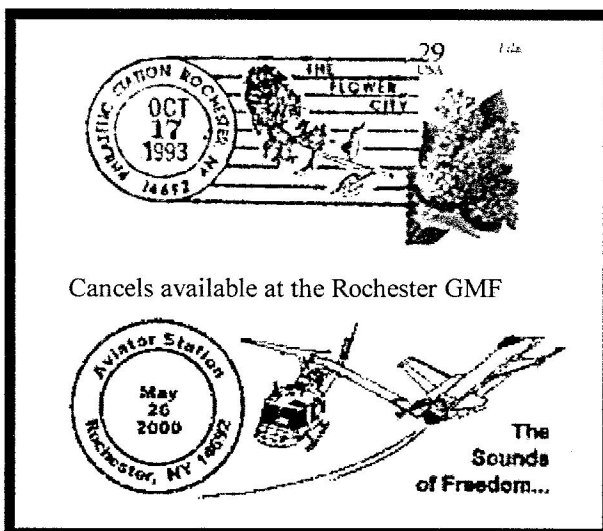
The last item on display was a typed note from Gerald Ford (38th president, 1974-1977). Frederick Wiedman had written to the former president asking for a letter for his collection. He had also obviously asked Ford to write about his experiences on the Warren Commission. The November 1, 1994 letter spoke of being the only surviving committee member, and his firm conclusion that they had drawn the right conclusions regarding president Kennedy's assassination. The signed letter was mailed in a Rancho Mirage, California corner card and bore the hand-written free-frank of Ford.

Tom Fortunato, Rochester, NY 2/27/00 6:43 PM

Visit my home page:

<http://www.frontiernet.net/~stamptmf/>

for stamp links to CAC, CCCC, FCNYPS, ISWSC, RPA, my exhibits, as well as GCS, airline, airport, and amateur wrestling pages!



The Arthur Salm Foundation Philatelic Reports

The Collectors Club of Chicago (CCC) established the Arthur Salm Foundation to conduct research on philatelic products, and other matters related to the good of philately. Mr. Salm, a member and former president of the CCC, was a philatelist renowned for his collections of Thurn and Taxis, and the German States. His collections were shown internationally, and were awarded numerous gold medals at several exhibitions, including the Grand Prix at IBRA '73 in Munich. Officers of the Arthur Salm Foundation serve without any type of compensation or reimbursement of expenses. The CCC provides gratis both office and storage space to the Foundation. All physical and chemical analytical testing procedures have been performed by certified independent laboratories. The Arthur Salm Foundation Philatelic reports are distributed and shipped anywhere in the world at no cost to the recipient(s), except for a Self-Addressed and Stamped Envelope (SASE). Since the creation of the Foundation about ten years ago, more than 11,000 of the reports have been forwarded to the international philatelic fraternity.

The Foundation has issued five reports since its inception, and has several further reports in various stages of completion. The reports currently available cover the following philatelic and philatelically-related topics.

- Report No. 1: Quality of Album Pages.
- Report No. 2: Quality of Paper Products.
- Report No. 3: Study of Hinges and Polymers
Used In Philately.
- Report No. 4: Non-Existent Entities Producing
Labels Passing as Postage Stamps.
- Report No. 5: Pressure-Sensitive Adhesive Postage
Stamps.

All five reports are currently available from the CCC. A legal size (USA No. 10 Size, approximately 4.25x9.5 inches) SASE envelope franked with 78¢ US postage for USA and APO addresses must be provided. For addresses outside of the USA, the envelopes should be franked with \$1.40 postage or, if USA postage is not available, please include three (3) International Reply Coupons (IRCs) with your correspondence. Requests for the reports should be addressed to:

Collectors Club of Chicago
1029 North Dearborn Street
Chicago, IL 60610
U.S.A.

For the good of philately, the CCC has also created, developed, and is maintaining an educational Website with the URL designation of "AskPhil" ("Phil" being an abbreviation for "Philately"): <http://www.askphil.org/> This philatelic Website, which is updated, revised and expanded continuously, is a valuable resource for reference data required by stamp collectors and postal historians, as well as for dealers active in these areas of collectibles. The CCC Website Resource Library is an impressive collection of "Reference Lists" and "How To" entries, including: The "AskPhil" Reference Library ...

- * Expertizers and Expertizing Committees ...
- * Glossary of Stamp Collecting Terms ...
- * Inscriptions and Overprints ...
- * International Philatelic Dealer Groups ...
- * International Philatelic Federations ...
- * Local Stamp Clubs ...
- * National Philatelic Federations ...
- * Philatelic Libraries of the World ...
- * Philatelic Museums of the World ...
- * Principal Stamp Publications of the World ...
- * Stamp Dealers ...
- * Stamp Inscriptions and Overprints ...
- * Topical and Specialty Organizations ...
- * USPS Philatelic centers
- * Worldwide Philatelic Agencies ...

Salm Foundation Reports ...

Planning Your Philatelic Estate ...

- * An Overview of Estate Planning ...
- * Collectors Can Aid Estate Administrators ...
- * Preparing Your Estate Administrator ...

"How To" Articles ...

- ... Avoid Mistakes
- ... Buy Stamps
- ... Get the Most from a Stamp Show
- ... Get Stamps
- ... Invest in Stamps
- ... Keep Track of Your Collection
- ... Learn More
- ... Mount and Save Booklets
- ... Protect Yourself in Internet Auctions
- ... Save Self-Adhesive Stamps
- ... Save Stamps
- ... Select an Album
- ... Sell Stamps
- ... Soak Stamps
- ... Store Stamps
- ... Use a Perforation Gauge
- ... Use a Stamp Catalog to identify and sort your Stamps.
- ... Use Hinges, Mounts and Tongs
- ... Use Ultraviolet Lighting (and Why)
- ... Watermark Stamps

PUBLIC PHILATELIC AUCTIONS ...

- * Philatelic Auction Catalog Abbreviations ...
- * Currency Designations ...
- * General Abbreviations ...
- * Gum and Hinging ...
- * Stamp Centering ...
- * Symbols ...
- * Public Philatelic Auction Glossary ...
- * Worldwide Auction Houses ...

The CCC Website also allows and encourages collectors and dealers to E-Mail philatelically-related questions to "Ask Phil"; a CCC resource team will research an answer, and will reply online. Visit the Website ... Its very informative! ... It would be useful for you if the URL were bookmarked, to allow the CCC Website to become a "Favorite Place" for your ready reference requirements

Tom Fortunato, Rochester, NY

RPA Firsts

First official RPA meeting- March 26, 1913 at the Hotel Rochester, 8 PM. Dues were \$2 per year, 50 cents for juniors.

First RPA auction- October 22, 1913 of US and foreign stamps realizing \$8.65 in sales, \$1 of it going into the RPA Treasury.

First RPA banquet- January, 1914 held jointly with the Rochester Numismatic Association.

First members' competitive exhibit- March 25, 1914 showing countries of Europe. It ended in a 5 to 5 tie.

First woman member- Mrs. Zimmerman who joined in June, 1914 and never attended another meeting.

First honorary RPA member- Mr. D. Horetman, named on January 27, 1915.

First expelled RPA member- M. Ottly on November 24, 1915 for failing to pay a dealer in Bath, England 37.22 for stamps.

First RPA mail auction- May 20, 1964 containing 1129 lots receiving 4100 bids. Total CV of all lots was \$32,000, of which \$28,000 CV was sold for \$7,200 at about 26% CV per '64 prices.

First "Champion of Champions" & national philatelic literature competition- September 19-22, 1968 at the RPA 50th anniversary exhibition.

First "ROPEX"- September 24-26, 1971, ROPEX '71.

First RPA souvenir card- January 21, 1974 issued during ROPEX/TOPEX '74 featuring the 1954 George Eastman stamp.

FROM: rpa.homepage.com/index.html



Hinges & Tongs

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